



SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH

GENERAL PLAN

Newsletter #2

FIRST PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP A SUCCESS!

Approximately 25 people attended the first workshop for the Sonoma Coast State Beach General Plan. Thanks to all who attended and shared their ideas about the State Beach's future! The meeting was held at the Bodega Marine Laboratory on the evening of March 13th and provided an opportunity for the public to give early input on the scope, focus, and content of the Sonoma Coast State Beach General Plan and EIR. In addition, State Parks received 37 surveys, completed on the website and by hand from interested community members, organizations and state and local agencies. Many of the ideas received have been incorporated into the concepts developed for the General Plan. The following highlights some of the ideas and comments presented by meeting participants and survey respondents:

- Maintain "natural environment" experience.
- Protect from overuse.
- Preserve native wildlife and habitat.
- Control non-native, invasive species.
- Manage grazing.
- Preserve cultural resources and significant historic structures (e.g., Willow Creek barns, Jenner boat house, ranch houses).
- Protect water quality (e.g., protect watershed, discourage sewer outfall)
- Maintain beach access and cleanliness.
- Provide more trails and connect trails.
- Increase trail maintenance and protect trails from erosion and inappropriate uses.
- Increase parking capacity at appropriate locations.
- Manage and provide for hang gliding/paragliding, rock climbing, fishing, and horseback riding.
- Provide additional campgrounds and day use facilities; collaborate on regional visitor center.
- Provide more ADA accessible facilities.
- Provide more interpretation and education.
- Evaluate appropriate locations for natural and cultural preserves.
- Support restoration efforts in Willow Creek and Salmon Creek watersheds.
- Identify and protect areas used by Native Americans.



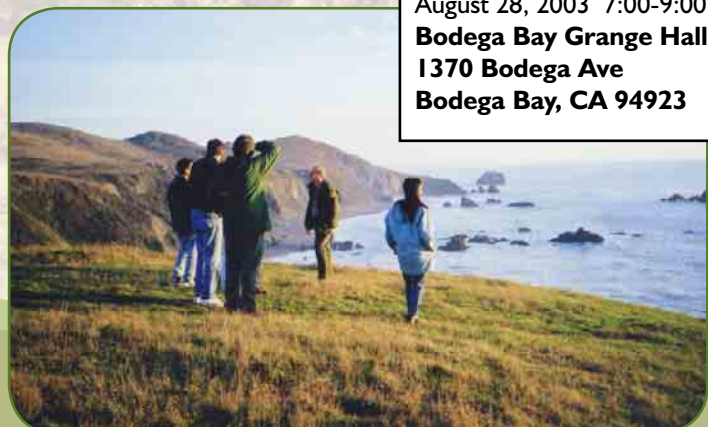
Gathering Ideas at the Public Workshop, Spring 2003

IDEAS FOR DRAFT GENERAL PLAN

We are now in the process of incorporating your ideas into a draft General Plan. This Plan will define long-term visions and goals for the park, identify needs and desired improvements, and provide guidelines for protecting significant resources.

We are looking to you to share your thoughts and continue participating as we plan the future of this magnificent park. Please come and share your input at our next public workshop on August 28 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Bodega Grange Hall (see map inside).

PUBLIC WORKSHOP:
August 28, 2003 7:00-9:00 pm
Bodega Bay Grange Hall
1370 Bodega Ave
Bodega Bay, CA 94923



Visitors at beautiful Sonoma Coast State Beach

Sonoma Coast State Beach

THE GENERAL PLAN PROCESS

Where We Have Been.

The development of the General Plan has been underway since the fall of 2002. Since then we have been researching and documenting the existing conditions of the park and surrounding region. During this process, a public meeting has been held to gather public input. A survey serving the same purpose has been circulated to interested stakeholders. The public input has been compiled and a summary is posted on the park planning website, www.parks.ca.gov/generalplans.



Sonoma Coast State Beach

Where We Are Going.

Once a preferred alternative is formulated and refined, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act will be prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the preferred alternative's implementation on the environment. Another opportunity for your involvement will be provided in the fall or winter of this year when the Public Draft of the General Plan and EIR will be circulated for public review and comment. Your comments will be reviewed by the Department of Parks and Recreation staff and considered for incorporation into the planning process and EIR. A timeline for the planning process is provided on the backpage of this newsletter.



Public Workshop, Spring 2003

Where We Are Now.

We are holding our second public meeting on August 28, 2003, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Bodega Bay Grange. At this meeting we will be presenting draft purpose and vision statements, as well as preliminary concepts for the Sonoma Coast State Beach General Plan. We will be gathering thoughts and ideas from you on these concepts. With your input, a preferred alternative will be formulated by the planning team.



Native Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*)



Willow Creek Historic Ranch House



Public Workshop, Spring 2003

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Stay Informed: This newsletter is being published to keep you informed about the progress of this planning process. You may also visit the State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov/generalplans to get updated information. To access the General Plan website from the main page, under Related Links click on "General Plans-In Progress", then click on "Sonoma Coast State Beach."

Attend the Second Public Planning Workshop: We will host the next public workshop for the Sonoma Coast State Beach General Plan on August 28, 2003, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at the Bodega Bay Grange Hall (see location on map). You will have the opportunity to comment on the General Plan concepts developed thus far and submit suggestions on three presented alternatives so that a preferred alternative can be developed with your input in mind. After the public meeting, the preferred alternative will be defined and used to craft a draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report.





California Department of Parks and Recreation
Russian River District
P.O. Box 123/25381 Steelhead Boulevard
Duncans Mills, CA 95430

SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH

Calendar of Events

GENERAL PLAN PROCESS AT A GLANCE

February 2003	SPRING 2003	AUGUST 2003	SUMMER/FALL 2003	WINTER 2003	SUMMER 2004
Release Notice of Preparation of General Plan and EIR	Public Workshop #1; Identify issues and concerns	Public Workshop #2: Develop alternatives	Develop General Plan and prepare EIR	Public review of the preliminary General Plan and draft EIR	Final General Plan and EIR, Agency approval

If you have questions or comments about the General Plan process please contact us at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
North Bay District
Russian River Sector
P.O. Box 123/25381 Steelhead Boulevard
Duncans Mills, CA 95430
707.865.2391

Contact Information

For general information about park use (e.g. hours, activities), please call 707.875.3483

Visit Our Website
**[www.parks.ca.gov/
generalplans](http://www.parks.ca.gov/generalplans)**



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